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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/724,735	12/02/2003	Sheng-Hsiung Lin	2450-0590P	2081
2292	7590	03/16/2006	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			HAWK, NOAH CHANDLER	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3637	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/724,735	Applicant(s) LIN, SHENG-HSIUNG	
	Examiner Noah C. Hawk	Art Unit 3637	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1 recites the limitation "a keyboard capable of holding at least one object" and then "a first supporting surface for supporting the keyboard" and "a second supporting surface for supporting the object." It is unclear if the keyboard or the keyboard carrier is intended to support the object. In Claim 1, the phrases "installed to a platform" and "disposed at one side of the platform" render the claim indefinite. The instant claim recites a "keyboard carrier" but includes language directed to a platform to which the keyboard carrier is installed. It is unclear whether the applicant intends to claim the keyboard carrier alone or the combination of the keyboard carrier and the platform and the desk. For the purposes of examination, the Office will treat all claims as directed to the "keyboard carrier" device. Any language directed to the platform will be given no patentable weight. Claim 5 recites the limitation "the fixing hole" in line 3 of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claim 10 recites the limitation "the snap groove" in line 3 of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

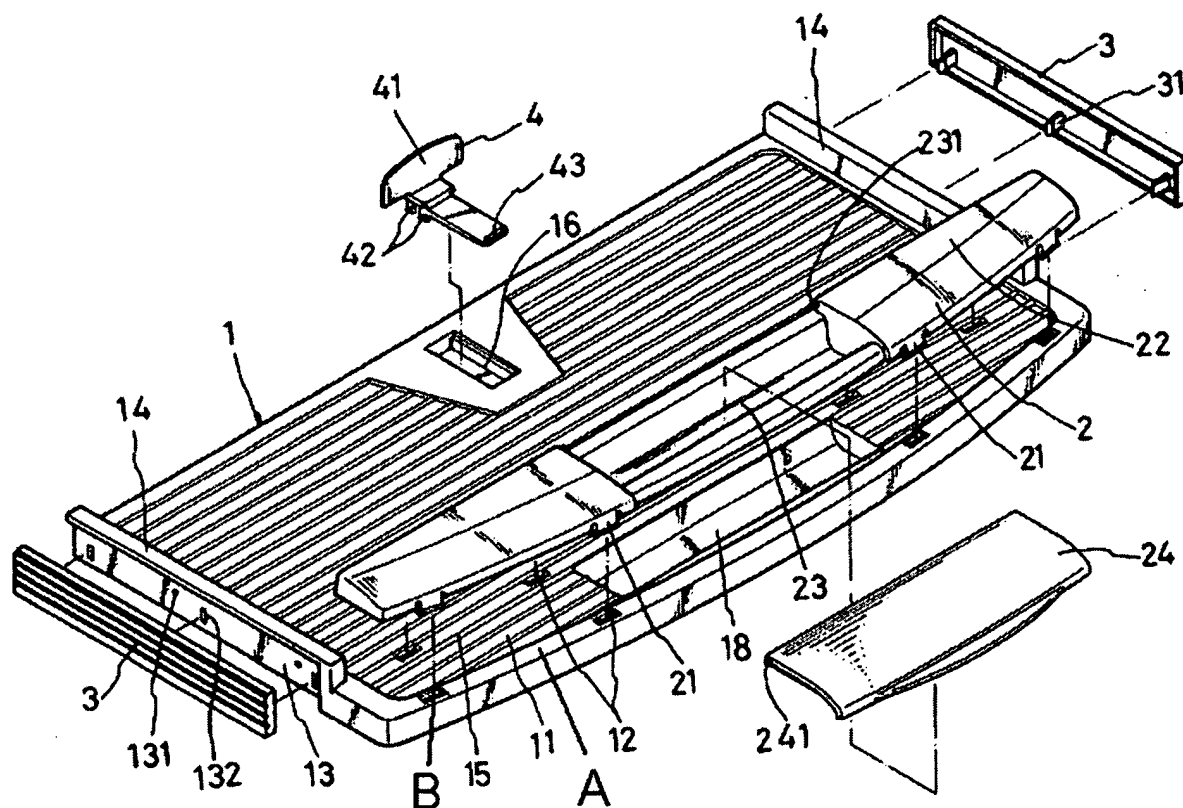
(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-10 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin in US Patent 5704698 in view of Cooper et al. in US Patent 6454369.

a. Regarding Claim 1, Lin discloses a keyboard carrier comprising a storage compartment (22) including a container (23), and a cover (24) corresponding to the container to be opened and closed, a supporting plate (1) including a first supporting surface (11) and a second supporting surface (A) formed by expanding from the front edge of the first supporting surface towards the user, the first and second supporting surfaces being integral to the carrier. Lin fails to teach that the carrier is installed to a platform by a supporting arm or that the supporting plate is made of metal. Cooper et al. disclose a keyboard carrier installed to a platform (see Cooper et al. Column 3, line 54 "the keyboard tray is extendably mounted to the underside of a desk") by using a supporting arm (29) disposed at one side of the platform and having a supporting plate made of metal (see Cooper et al., Column 3, line 24-25 "the keyboard platform is steel"). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention

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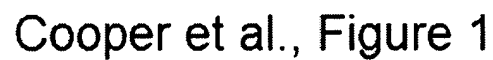
to modify the device of Lin by mounting the keyboard carrier to a platform with a supporting arm and to use a metal supporting plate as taught by Cooper et al. in order to allow the user to use the keyboard while sitting at a desk and in order to provide a more rigid supporting surface. Please note that statements beginning with “for” such as the limitation “for supporting a keyboard” and “for supporting the object” are considered functional language and are therefore given no patentable weight.



Lin, Figure 1

b. Regarding Claim 2, Lin further discloses that the first supporting surface and second supporting surface are not on the same plane (Best seen in Lin, Figure 1)

c. Regarding Claim 3, as stated above, Lin in view of Cooper et al. teach all of the elements of Claim 1 including a keyboard carrier with a storage compartment, but fails to teach that the storage compartment has at least one partition. Cooper et al. discloses that the container has at least one partition (A). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device of Lin in view of Cooper et al. as applied to Claim 1 above by using a storage compartment with a partition as taught by Cooper et al. in order to allow the user to place different objects in the storage compartment and keep them separate.



e. Regarding Claims 5 and 7, Lin further discloses that the container provides at least one fixing element (21) in the form of a tenon.

f. Regarding Claim 6, Lin in view of Cooper et al. discloses all of the limitations of Claim 5 including a keyboard carrier with a storage compartment, but fails to teach that the fixing element is a screw. Cooper et al. discloses the use of a screw (see Cooper et al., Column 5, lines 1-2 "a screw") to mount elements onto the supporting surface. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device of Lin in view of Cooper et al. as applied to Claim 5 above by using a screw fastener as taught by Cooper et al. in order to more securely fasten the storage compartment to the second supporting surface.

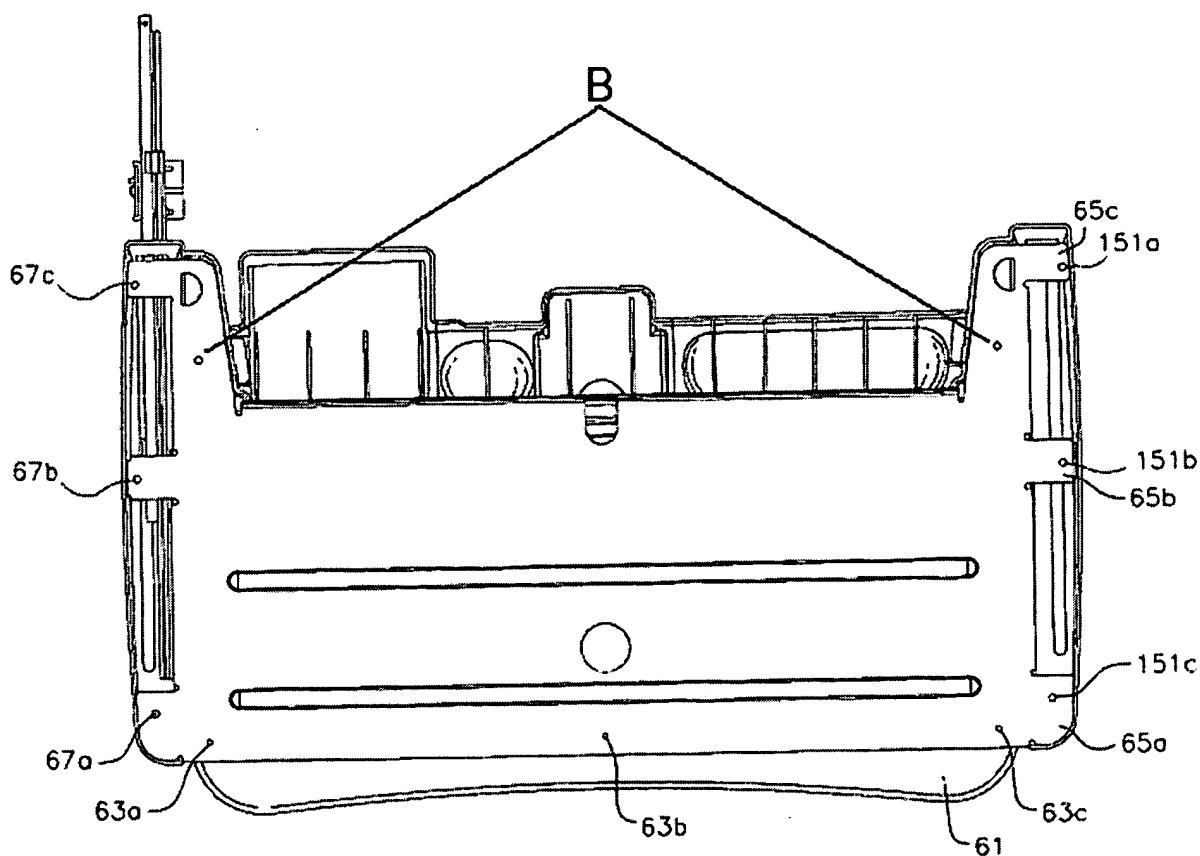
g. Regarding Claim 8, Lin in view of Cooper et al. discloses all of the limitations of Claim 5 including a keyboard carrier with a storage compartment, but fails to teach that the fixing element is a rivet. Cooper et al. discloses the use of a rivet (see Cooper et al., Column 5, lines 1-2) to mount elements onto the supporting surface. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device of Lin in view of Cooper et al. as applied to Claim 5 above by using a rivet fastener as taught by Cooper et al. in order to more securely fasten the storage compartment to the second supporting surface.

h. Regarding Claims 9 and 10, Lin in view of Cooper et al. discloses all of the limitations of Claim 1 including a keyboard carrier with a storage compartment but fails to teach that the container has at least one snap groove and that the cover has at least one snap protrusion. Lin discloses the use of a snap groove-

snap protrusion combination wherein the storage compartment has at least one snap protrusion (231) on the side and that the cover has at least one snap groove (241) on the side corresponding to the snap groove. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device of Lin in view of Cooper et al. by using a snap groove-snap protrusion arrangement as taught by Lin with at least one snap groove on the container and at least one corresponding snap protrusion on the cover in order to provide a means for connecting the cover to the compartment and to allow the user to replace the smaller (and therefore cheaper) cover if the snap protrusion is broken during installation of the cover rather than having to replace the entire storage compartment.

i. Regarding Claim 14, Lin in view of Cooper et al. discloses all of the limitations of Claim 1 including a keyboard carrier with a storage compartment but fails to teach that the storage compartment has at least one partition or that the second surface has at least one hole corresponding to the partition. Cooper et al. discloses that the container has at least one partition (A) and that the second supporting surface (11) has at least one supporting hole (B, Best seen in Cooper et al., Figure 2, below) disposed in the edge and corresponding to the partition (insofar as it is explained by the applicant). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device of Lin in view of Cooper et al. as applied to Claim 1 above by using a storage compartment with a partition as taught by Cooper et al. in order to allow the user

to place different objects in the storage compartment and keep them separate
and to add at least one hole in the edge of the second supporting surface
corresponding to the partition in order to positively locate the compartment on the
supporting surface.



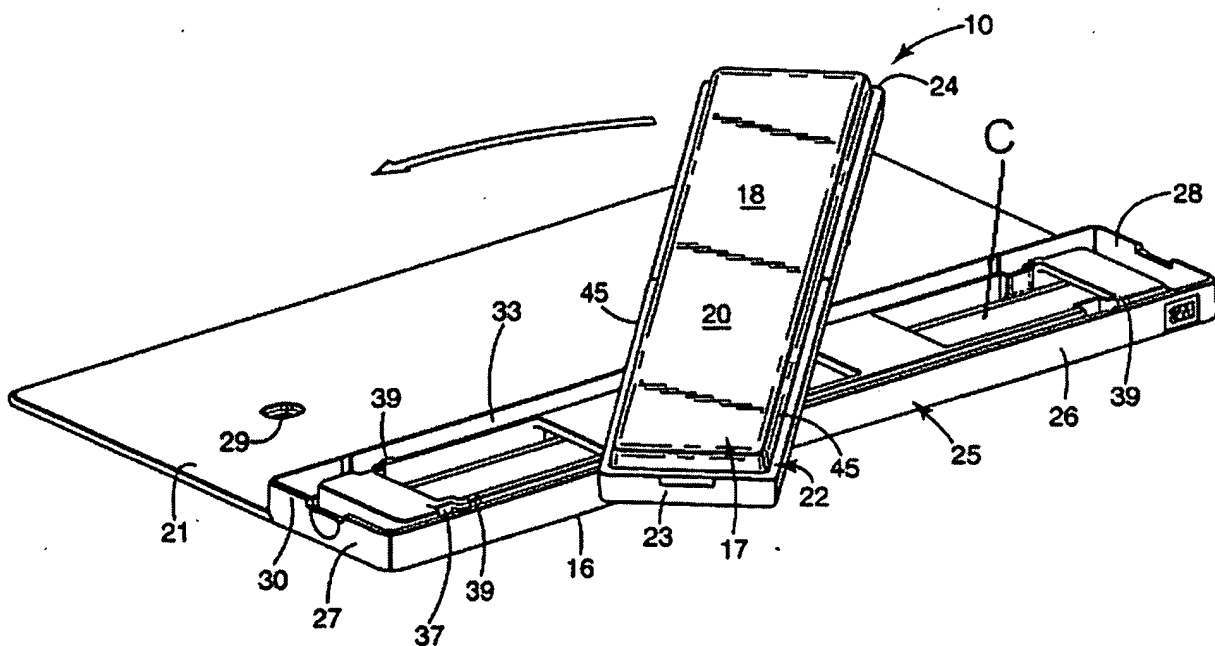
Cooper et al., Figure 2

5. Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin in view of Cooper et al. as applied to Claim 1 above and further in view of Kirchhoff et al. in US Patent 5547154. As stated above, Lin in view of Cooper et al.

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discloses all of the elements of Claim 1 including a keyboard carrier with a storage compartment, but fails to teach the use of a soft pad or a retention device therefore.

Kirchhoff et al. discloses a keyboard carrier with a "storage compartment" (Best seen in Kirchhoff et al., Figure 3, below) having a cover with a soft pad (17) disposed thereon and a fastener (45) disposed on the edge thereof. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device of Lin in view of Cooper et al. as applied to Claim 1 above by adding a soft pad fastened to the storage compartment cover as taught by Kirchhoff et al. in order to increase the comfort of the user.



Kirchhoff et al. '514, Figure 3

6. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin in view of Cooper et al. as applied to Claim 1 above and further in view of Jones et al. in US Patent 6349915. As stated above, Lin in view of Cooper et al. discloses all of the limitations of Claim 1 including a keyboard carrier with a storage compartment, but fails to disclose a binder. Jones et al. discloses a keyboard carrier with a binder (10) disposed at the top of a first supporting surface (4). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the device of Lin in view of Cooper et al. as applied to Claim 1 above by adding a binder as taught by Jones et al. in order to allow the user to read a document while using a keyboard on the carrier.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Liu, Clausen. And Kirchhoff et al. '369 disclose keyboard trays. Lin and Yun disclose keyboard trays with a binder. Schriener and Topps et al. disclose storage trays for use with computer products. Rossman et al. and Wolf et al. disclose wrist rests.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Noah C. Hawk whose telephone number is 571-272-1480. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on 571-272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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